

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

THURSDAY

APRIL 19, 1917

CENSORSHIP: PROBLEMS AND
POSSIBILITIES

"Selective Conscription"

President Wilson's stand on the vital question of raising the new army undoubtedly brings deep satisfaction to army men who have studied the problem of national enlistment. As the president told the senators yesterday, he will not compromise; he backs the judgment of the army experts, and they are all against the volunteer system.

What was said in these columns some days ago regarding the trial to be made of volunteering with ultimate resort to the selective draft, now holds good. The call has gone out for volunteers in the regular army and in the militia. But the president, Secretary Baker and the general staff expecting no great results from the call for volunteers, have not been particularly disappointed, and are moving ahead with plans for the "selective conscription."

Undoubtedly the American mind recoils from the word "conscription." It brings up to some of the elder generation memories of the draft riots of Civil War days, with the glaring defects of that system laid bare; to others, it brings up a vision of recruiting squads under inexorable sergeants marching from house to house and haling men to the colors, as Belgian civilians are impressed into the service of Germany—torn from their families.

Nothing of the sort is contemplated. No general conscription is proposed. "Selective conscription" means something quite different.

What the president favors appears to be along the Derby plan which worked out successfully in England—calling to the colors men by classes, and leaving at home until the last extremity those who have dependent families or relatives.

First to be called are those men who have no dependents. The work and responsibility of raising the new army are to be divided among the states and among the classes of civilians, if reports from Washington are correct. It is understood that the general staff plans propose to exempt, from the first call, skilled workers in many industries. These workers, however, will be part of the industrial force of the country which is to be "mobilized" in national service. It is said that skilled farmers are not to be called at first, the government realizing that the problem of food-stuffs is one of the most pressing before the government.

Senator Chamberlain recently changed the minimum age limit in his bill from 19 to 20 years and added a provision that the secretary of war shall divide the country into training divisions.

President Wilson is understood to have decided definitely upon the following plan:

The first step is to recruit the regular army and national guard up to war strength. This is already being tried under the call as published in the Honolulu newspapers last Friday and Saturday. The war-strength recruiting, if entirely successful, will bring up our military forces, independent of any draft system, to approximately 724,000 men, making room for the absorption of half a million volunteers.

The present strength of the regular army is something less than 140,000 men and of the guard about 150,000.

To raise the army to two million which is now talked of, more than 1,250,000 must be enlisted by "selective conscription" after the regulars and national guard organizations have been recruited up to full war strength. Of course, it is possible that a call for volunteers in addition to the full enlistment of the present organizations might be made, but there is little expectation that the volunteers will come forward in sufficient numbers.

It is a fact that the war has not yet imposed full realization on the American people. Volunteering will be slack until there is some tremendous event—some military clash that will arouse Americans to the Prussian menace. Meanwhile, any army expert will tell you that it is impossible to build an organization sufficient to carry on twentieth-century warfare out of the bare possibilities for future volunteer enlistments.

Professor Wilson has a way with him of "getting soft" on occasion and making Congress do what he wants. He was "soft" on repeal of the Panama Canal tolls act, on tariff reduction, the learned neutrality bill and a few other askings, and he either got them done or knocked his opponents higher than a kite. Twelve senators held up his armed neutrality measure and he drove "the little group of wilful men" on the rocks of national condemnation and derision. He is now "soft" on conscription and the odds are that he will put it through.

Sinking American ships and killing American citizens in the vague hope of inflicting injury upon England by such methods is just another ramification of the spirit which devastated Belgium in order to get a short cut to France—St. Louis City Tribune.

Belgium will shed no tears over the death of the iron-handed von Bissing, the justly-execrated governor-general. Von Bissing, however, was merely carrying out the orders of the higher-ups and operating on the policy of frightfulness which has arrayed the world against Germany.

Loyal acquiescence in the request of the navy department that newspapers cease publishing arrivals as well as departures of vessels will be given by the island press. Readers of the Star-Bulletin, if they find the ship news column somewhat meager and abbreviated, will understand that the newspapers are carrying out the ideas of officials in Washington on necessary precautions. These precautions are to prevent, as far as possible, news of the movements of naval and merchant vessels of the United States and the Allies from reaching the enemy.

This whole question of censorship just now is arousing wide comment on the mainland. In general, the more influential newspapers agree that the censorship on facts should be as rigid as military necessity dictates but they agree also that any movement, military or civil, to limit the freedom of ideas will not be tolerated by the American people. In other words, fair and intelligent criticism of events is not only justified but imperative if the democratic character of government is to be preserved. On this line the Philadelphia Public Ledger aptly observes:

From the beginning of the present war a rigid censorship has been imposed in England. This censorship has been directed without vision, without a proper sense of the value of liberal criticism, apparently without any realization of the historical significance of freedom of speech. From the first it has been essentially a Prussian censorship, an institution designed to defeat the established traditions of democracy. Its fundamental error has been the failure to discriminate between military information and legitimate critical opinion; between facts and ideas; between the material and the spiritual elements of the news.

This discrimination must be of the very essence of a liberal censorship. On the side of facts, the material side of the news, it must bear down with a heavy hand. But on the side of ideas, on the spiritual side of the news, it should impose absolutely no restrictions. Criticism and opinion should be as free as in times of peace. If it is sound it will be of public value; if it is weak it will work its own destruction. It is precisely on this score that the present British censorship has throughout the war been one of England's most insidious enemies.

This statement needs no further confirmation than the instance of the Dardanelles campaign. When we remember that throughout this campaign the newspapers of England were full of the most extraordinary misinformation, calculated to create a public confidence in the operation which it did not at any time deserve, we cannot fail to see that the censorship was in reality doing both the government and public opinion a serious injury. Had the truth been allowed to come out, had criticism of the operation been free to express itself, it is apparent that of two things would immediately have happened: Either the troops at the Dardanelles would have been reinforced or they would have been withdrawn. As it was, they were allowed to remain in a disastrous military situation until conditions got so bad that the whole campaign had to be abandoned.

All the while the British public had been led to suppose that the operation was being measurably successful. When the crash came the effect upon public opinion was shocking. In the midst of such a complete disillusionment the mind of the English people inevitably swung toward reactionary policies.

Of course newspaper criticism should not degenerate into petty, fault-finding, mean, nagging slurs or insinuations which cannot be backed up with facts. And in the times of national stress, every newspaper owes it to unity to stand by the duly constituted authorities until it is obvious that they are on the wrong road. Hair-trigger attacks on public officials are distinctly improper.

The story of the travels of a carload of onions: It was secured near Syracuse. From that city it was shipped to Boston, where it was resold and forwarded to Philadelphia. In that place another sale started the onions to Chicago. By the time the car reached Chicago the New York city prices proved a strong lure and it was again sent on its travels. At last reports this carload of onions had traveled 2478 miles and had not yet reached the anxious consumer.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

In the eastern states millionaires have turned to home gardening. George J. Gould is going to plant potatoes on a large part of his beautiful Lakewood, N. J., estate and Sherwood B. Ferris, the multi-millionaire crab manufacturer, has also turned to potatoes. The same lowly vegetable is to be grown on the Rockefeller estate and many other great holdings. The schools of Oahu which are in a potato-growing contest have plenty of distinguished company.

Whether Honolulu holds the next city election under the old or new charter plan, half a dozen men of sterling character, level heads and constructive municipal energy are needed on the board of supervisors. The new board will have a very large amount of money to spend and several big and pressing problems either to solve or to hopelessly "half up." Honolulu is a city in size and its government should be distinctly above the country-town class.

We can best compel an early and favorable peace by showing our determination to carry the war to the gates of Berlin if that be indeed necessary.—New York Sun.

Those retreating German armies have been burning villages and destroying property without the slightest apparent regard for the possibility that indemnities may figure in the eventual peace terms.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

FAVORS TABLING TERRITORY ROADS

In a report submitted this afternoon to the senate the judiciary committee recommended the tabling of the civic convention road bill, which proposed the creation of a central railroad commission to have charge of road work throughout the territory.

The committee report expressed the belief that the counties, having been allowed an increase in tax money, should be given two more years to make good on roads.

Mention was also made of the fact that the ways and means committee has several road bills now under consideration.

Senator Nakelau's bill, which provides that irrigation companies shall have right of eminent domain in putting their ditches, flumes and pipe lines into operation was tabled by the committee, which did not believe extending power thus should be without stricter safeguards.

LETTERS

DIMENSIONS OF THE FLAG

Honolulu, T. H., April 18, 1917.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

There appears on the editorial page of the Star-Bulletin of the 17th instant a letter by "AMERICAN," under the caption of "INCORRECT U. S. FLAGS," wherein the writer attempts to correct a confused understanding of the appearance of the United States flag in the following language:

"The American flag is constructed on exact measurement. Here they are:

"Up and down, 13 stripes wide (6 white and 7 red).

"Lengthwise (to the breeze), 19 stripes long.

"The field (the blue part), 7 stripes square."

Evidently the writer is not familiar with his subject for he is wrong in his dimensions and I write to correct his error and to give a reliable and accurate description of the United States flag as published in the president's executive order of May 29, 1916.

Dimensions

Hoist (width) of the flag, 1.

Length (length) of the flag, 1.9 of the hoist.

Hoist of the Union (blue field), 7-13 of the hoist.

Fly of the Union, 76-100 of the hoist.

Width of each stripe, 1-13 of the hoist.

Description

The flag of the United States has 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red and 6 white, the red and white stripes alternating, and the union of the flag consists of white stars in a blue field placed in the upper quarter next the staff, and extending to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top. The number of stars is the same as the number of states in the Union. On the admission of a state into the Union, one star will be added to the union of the flag, and such addition will take effect on the fourth day of July next succeeding such admission.

At present the union of the flag contains 48 stars arranged in six horizontal rows of eight stars each.

The flags in use by the United States army (excepting colors and standards carried by troops) are known as follows:

The Garrison Flag—20 ft. hoist by 38 ft. fly.

The Post Flag—10 ft. hoist by 19 ft. fly.

The Storm Flag—5 ft hoist by 9 ft. 6 in. fly.

The dimensions of the post flag used by the United States army are as follows:

Hoist, 120 inches.

Fly, 228 inches.

Hoist of Union, 64 8-13 inches.

Fly of Union, 91 2-10 inches.

Width of each stripe, 9 3-13 inches.

E. I. SHARP.

Q. M. Sgt., Q. M. C., U. S. A.

CORRECT U. S. FLAG

Schofield Bks., H. T.

April 17, 1917.

Editor, Honolulu Star-Bulletin:

Sir: I noticed a rather amusing letter in the "Letters to a Timely Topic." It was entitled "Incorrect U. S. Flags," and signed "American." I have been in the U. S. army for a little over three years and I have never seen an American flag like the "American" described. The flag that I am serving is not "19 stripes long."

For the benefit of persons who have never seen the army regulations I will quote paragraph 215:

"The flag of the U. S. has 13 horizontal stripes, 7 red and 6 white, the red and white stripes alternating, and the union of the flag consists of white stars in a blue field placed in the upper quarter next the staff, and extending to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe from the top. The number of stars is the same as the number of the states in the union. On the admission of a state into the union, one star will be added to the

MAUI NOW BADLY BROKEN BY SEAS

Although the men of the salvaging expedition were able to get the vessel on an even keel, they were driven off by bad weather and had to abandon work on the wrecked inter-island steamer Maui. The vessel now is practically a total wreck, with her hull badly broken up.

This is the news brought to Honolulu today by a steamer which returned this morning from the scene of the Maui wreck at Makalawena Point, North Kona, Hawaii.

Drydock Supt. J. Alex Lyle, who was in charge of the attempts to float the Maui, reported to inter-island officials that no sooner were he and his men able to get the vessel on an even keel than heavy swells began to set in and broke up the work.

When the trade winds died down the swell at this point increases, owing to the peculiar lay of the land at the scene of the wreck. While the wind blows from the northeast and east work can be done but the wind's cessation means heavy seas breaking over the wreck. It is these conditions which have twice compelled the cessation of work and have pounded the wrecked steamer so that no wit is considered impossible to save her.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

"CY" WILMARTH, manager Pleasanton Hotel: They kept me busy giving out tickets for our final hula hula last night. It was a grand evening and a grand crowd.

PURSER JOHN S. FORD, Great Northern: The Montana beauties certainly did liven up the voyage this trip. They are a fine lot of representative Western girls.

CAPT. PETER JOHNSON, commander of the Matson liner Maui: My boat is working better every day. She performed magnificently running from here to Kahului, Hilo and return.

JOHN EFFINGER: If all the various factions in Honolulu could get together and agree on anything we could get results not only in better city government but in municipal improvements.

CAPT. W. H. CURTIS, assistant harbor master: I had a nice talk yesterday with Capt. Curtis of the Colusa. He is no relation of mine but I have sailed with him and hope to see him call at Honolulu again before long.

A. J. GIGNOUX: I do not look for our war with Germany to send the prices of drugs any higher. American drug manufacturers are better prepared to supply the trade than at any time since the start of the European war. We have learned to make in the United States drugs and dyestuffs we formerly were dependent on Germany for.

POSTMASTER D. H. MACADAM (swimming at Waikiki): Believe me, this is a big improvement over Washington. There are swimming pools in the national capital but no open beach like this. I am living on the edge of the water and intend to get myself back into first class physical condition by doing a lot of swimming. Is a surf-board hard to ride?

VITAL STATISTICS

BORN

SMITH—In Honolulu, April 18, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kalani Smith, of Kalauni Road, near Kana-kani Street, a son—Joseph.

MAKALII—In Honolulu, April 19, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Makalii of 1817 Luso St., a daughter—Anna.

DIED

KOPA—In Honolulu, April 18, 1917, Josephine, one-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kopa, of North King Street, near Kamehameha IV Road, Kalauni.

OHULENU—In Honolulu, April 18, 1917, Kalani, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pohaku Ohulenu, of Punchbowl Street.

ANDERSON—In Hilo, Hawaii, April 13, 1917, Andria Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, of Kukuau, one year and six months old.

KAMEA—In Hilo, Hawaii, April 13, 1917, Iouane Kamea, of Wainaku Avenue, Hilo, a native of Hawaii, sixty-four years old.

OLEOR—In Kailua, Kauai, April 11, 1917, Mrs. Lizzie Cummings Olele, daughter of John Cummings, of Lihue, Kauai.

ABELL—In Oakland, California, March 29, 1917, Mrs. Leslie Abell, formerly Miss Rosemary Stolz, of Waimoa, Kauai.

union of the flag, and such addition will take effect on the 4th day of July next succeeding such admission."

SERGEANT.

Co. M., "Hawaii's Own"

An Idea

Does Not Amount to Anything

If Not Expressed.

You have had the experience of ideas presented by another—

Ideas you had in mind but never expressed.

What Good did your idea do you or anyone so far as you were concerned?

The Man who spoke out, who presented the idea to the public,

That Man got the benefit and the credit.

You Have Ideas about your business and why people should do business with you.

What Good do those ideas do you or any others, unless you make them public.

Paid Publicity Expresses Ideas

The net paid circulation of the Star-Bulletin on March 7 was **6116**

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

It teases me to ride in trains When past the little towns we speed. Like looking into story books I know I haven't time to read.



PERSONALITIES

1916 class at St. Louis College and is now a freshman at Santa Clara College, California.

MISS PETRA NORGAARD, sister of Dr. Victor A. Norgaard, territorial veterinarian, arrived yesterday from the mainland, to make her home in Honolulu with her brother. Miss Norgaard is a "mailbird," never having visited Hawaii before. Dr. Norgaard says he hopes she will stay here permanently. Miss Norgaard is from Minneapolis, Minn.

OSCAR P. COX, prominent resident of Wailua, was in the city yesterday. There is some talk that he will seek again the nomination of sheriff.

JOSEPH McGETTIGAN, a resident of Wailua, has returned from the mainland. He was a member of the

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